UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/CONF.167/PC/L.5
2 September 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF
SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES
First session
30 August-10 September 1993
Item 3

POSITION OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA ON BASIC ELEMENTS FOR AN ACTION PROGRAMME FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

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I. CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA-LEVEL RISE

A. National action, policies and measures

1. Early ratification or accession to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Montreal Protocol and other related legal instruments.

2. Increased participation in the research, assessment monitoring and mapping of climatic impacts, including oceanographic and atmospheric monitoring programmes, to support the adoption of appropriate adaptive measures and policies and the development of response strategies, to minimize impact of climate change and sea-level rise, and increased participation in international discussions of these issues.

3. Improve public and political understanding of the potential impacts of climate change.

4. Promote more efficient use of energy resources in development planning and use appropriate methods to minimize adverse effects of climate change on their sustainable development.

B. Regional action

1. Create, and/or strengthen, programmes and projects to monitor and improve predictive capacity for climate change, variability and sea-level rise and to assess the impacts of climate change on marine resources, freshwater and agricultural production, including pests.

2. Develop and/or strengthen mechanisms to facilitate the exchange of information and experiences between small island developing States, and to promote technology transfer and training in small island developing States in response to climate change.

3. Provide technical assistance for ratification or accession to the Framework Convention on Climate Change and to assist those which have ratified the Convention to assume their major responsibilities.

C. International action

1. Implement immediately the prompt-start resolution agreed to by Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

2. Provide improved access to financial and technical resources for monitoring climate variability and change and sea-level rise, for assessment of the impacts of climate change, and the timely development and implementation of response adaptation strategies, recognizing the specific vulnerabilities and disproportionate cost borne by small island developing States.

3. Provide improved access to information from the activities carried out to reduce uncertainties of climate change and assist the interisland exchange of this information.

4. Provide access to environmentally sound and energy efficient technology to assist small island developing States to conserve energy and reduce emissions of greenhouses gases.

5. Support the activities of regional and subregional organizations aimed at assisting small island developing States to cope effectively and creatively with climate change, variability and sea-level rise, including systems for systematic and continuous research, monitoring and assessment of climate change, variability and sea-level rise, the role of oceans in the world climate, tidal variations and salt water intrusion of freshwater.

II. NATURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS

A. National action, policies and measures

1. Establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies, including building codes, to mitigate, prepare for, and respond to the increasing range and frequency of natural and environmental disasters and promote early warning systems, facilities for the rapid dissemination of information and warnings.

2. Strengthen the capacity of local broadcasting to assist remote atolls in the country and the neighbouring countries during disaster events.

3. Establish a national disaster emergency fund with joint private and public-sector support, for areas where insurance is not available in the commercial market.

4. Integrate natural and environmental disaster policies into national development planning and encourage the development of public and private sector disaster recovery plans, within the framework of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO), by the year 2000.

5. Strengthen cultural and traditional systems that improve the resilience of local communities to disaster events.

B. Regional action

1. Establish and/or strengthen, where appropriate, regional institutions to complement and support national efforts in disaster mitigation, preparedness and management.

2. Establish and/or strengthen, where appropriate, mechanisms for sharing experience, information and resources, including expertise, between small island developing States.

3. Increase access to telecommunication links and satellite facilities for disaster monitoring, assessment and information exchange.

4. Establish regional mechanisms and communication systems for rapid response to disasters.

C. International action

1. Assist small island developing States to establish national and regional institutional mechanisms and policies to reduce the impacts of natural disasters, improve disaster preparedness and integrate natural disaster considerations in development planning, including through access to disaster preparedness resources at the international level.

2. Improve access to technology and relevant training to assist with hazard and risk assessment and early warning systems and to assist with the protection of islands from environmental disasters consistent with national and regional strategies for disaster management.

III. MANAGEMENT OF WASTES

A. National action, policies and measures

1. Develop fiscal and policy incentives and other measures to encourage environmentally sustainable imports and local products with low waste or degradable waste content.

2. Develop and implement appropriate regulatory measures, including emission discharge and pollution standards, for the reduction, prevention, control and monitoring of pollution from all sources and for the safe and efficient management of toxic, hazardous and solid wastes, including sewage, herbicides, pesticides and industrial and hospital effluent, together with proper management of disposal sites.

3. Ratify and implement relevant conventions, including the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention) and relevant regional conventions.

4. Formulate and implement public awareness and education campaigns designed to gain local recognition of the need to control wastes at the source, the value of reuse and recycling, of appropriate packaging, and of the possibilities to convert wastes to resources in culturally appropriate ways.

5. Introduce clean technologies and treatment of waste at the source and appropriate technology for solid waste treatment.

6. Development information systems and baseline data for waste management and pollution control, monitoring the types and quantities of wastes, for both sea and land-based sources of pollution.

7. Establish port reception facilities for the collection of waste in accordance with annex V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships.

B. Regional action

1. Develop regional pollution prevention programmes, including regional centres for pollution prevention, involving demonstration projects, workshops and multimedia presentation tailored to specific groups, the development of economic incentives to further pollution prevention and waste management, relevant legislation, a coordinated and focused monitoring programme and the development of waste management and prevention trust funds.

2. Remove and dispose of existing hazardous wastes, such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), with the technical assistance of developed countries.

3. Establish clearing houses for information on the sources, levels, amounts, kinds, trends and effects of pollution and waste on marine and coastal systems, and on processes and technology to address pollution control from land and sea based sources.

4. Establish regional mechanisms, including conventions where appropriate, to protect the oceans, seas and coastal areas from ship-generated waste, oil spills and the transboundary movement of toxic and hazardous waste.

5. Examine ways to resolve disputes concerning waste disposal practices affecting islands and encourage a collaborative approach to international compensation and penalties for breaches of international agreements.

C. International action

1. Support the strengthening of national capabilities to carry out pollution monitoring and research and to formulate and apply pollution control and abatement measures.

2. Support the strengthening of institutions to provide assistance to Governments and industry in the adoption of clean production technologies as well as for the prevention of pollution and in the handling, treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes.

3. Accept the right of small island developing States to regulate, restrict and/or ban the importation of products containing non-biodegradable and/or hazardous substances and to prohibit the transboundary movement of hazardous and radioactive wastes and materials within their jurisdiction.

4. Ensure the international conventions and related negotiations on land based sources of marine pollution, including any amendments to the London Dumping Convention, take into account the interests and capacities of small island developing States.

5. Assist the implementation of monitoring and pollution prevention programmes and the establishment of port reception facilities for the collection of waste in accordance with annex V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships.

6. Enhance international cooperation in the establishment of waste management facilities, the control of toxic chemicals and pollution prevention as components of international investment projects, whether funded by multilateral or private sources.

IV. COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES

A. National action, policies and measures

1. Establish and/or strengthen, where necessary, institutional and administrative arrangements for the development of integrated coastal zone management plans and strategies for the exclusive economic zones and their implementation, including integration within national development plans.

2. Design comprehensive monitoring programmes of coastal and marine resources, including wetlands, to determine shoreline and ecosystem stability and document and apply traditional knowledge and management practices which are ecologically sound, as a basis for integrated coastal zone planning and decision-making.

3. Develop and/or strengthen natural capabilities for the sustainable harvesting and processing of fisheries resources and provide training and awareness programmes for the managers (government and local communities) of coastal and marine resources.

4. Ratify and/or adhere to regional and international conventions concerning protection of coastal and marine resources, combat unsustainable fishing and related practices.

B. Regional action

1. Develop and/or strengthen the capacity of regional organizations to undertake activities in the coastal and marine areas, including research on commercial and non-commercial fisheries with regard to sustainable harvesting and utilization; and surveys on reef, estuary and lagoon resources; and monitor and promote innovative ways to sustainably develop territorial waters and exclusive economic zones.

2. Develop methodology for integrated coastal zone management appropriate to small island developing States, particularly very small, low elevation and coral islands.

3. Develop and/or strengthen regional clearing-houses for coastal and marine environmental information so as to facilitate the collection, synthesis and sharing of relevant information, knowledge and experience among small island developing States in a structured and systematic way.

4. Develop programmes to enhance the negotiating and related skills in respect of the management and exploitation of coastal and marine resources, including the negotiation of fisheries agreements.

5. Develop and/or strengthen regional capabilities for the effective surveillance and monitoring of activities in the exclusive economic zones.

6. Harmonize policies and strategies for coordination of sustainable management and utilization of coastal and marine resources.

C. International action

1. Develop mechanisms for the gathering and sharing of information and expertise, particularly interregionally between small island developing States, including the Geographic Information System (GIS) techniques and facilities for the assessment of coastal and marine resources, including UNEP's regional GRID nodes.

2. Cooperate in facilitating mutually advantageous fishing agreements between small island developing States and foreign fishing groups and take account of the special concerns and characteristics of small island developing States within the United Nations Intergovernmental Conference on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

3. Assist with the establishment and/or strengthening, where necessary, of new institutional and administrative arrangements, where necessary, for the development of integrated coastal zone management plans and their implementation.

4. Support small island developing States in establishing national and regional capabilities for effective surveillance and monitoring of activities within the exclusive economic zone, in the setting up of regional and other joint-venture fishing enterprises, in developing inventories of marine resources, in developing regional approaches to the sustainable management of the exclusive economic zone and in the strengthening of regional marine research centres.

V. FRESHWATER RESOURCES

A. National action, policies and measures

1. Develop, maintain and protect watershed areas, irrigation systems, distribution networks and appropriate catchment systems and promote effective water conservation programmes through, inter alia, the development of integrated national water plans, the use of appropriate

incentives and regulatory measures, community involvement in management and conservation, forest management and reforestation and investment strategies.

2. Develop and strengthen low-cost monitoring and assessment capabilities, linked to water resources databases, for relevant decision-making tools, including forecasting models for water management, planning and utilization.

3. Strengthen procedures to monitor and respond to the impacts of natural and environmental hazards, in particular the impacts of climate change, including drought and sea-level rise, on water resources.

4. Encourage the development and acquisition of appropriate technology and training for cost-effective sewage disposal, desalination and rainwater collection to provide sufficiently high quality potable freshwater.

B. Regional action

1. Develop and strengthen initiatives for regional cooperation in training and research to assist Governments in the development and implementation of integrated water resources plans, including conservation and rehabilitation of watersheds, protection of ground water, fostering public awareness and water quality monitoring.

2. Provide technical assistance for the assessment and/or development and transfer of appropriate technology for water collection, distribution and protection, in particular sewage disposal technology.

C. International action

1. Improve access to environmentally sound and energy efficient technologies for the catchment, production, conservation and delivery of freshwater, including rainwater catchment, water treatment systems and desalination, and foster the exchange of information on water treatment methods.

2. Enhance small island developing States capacity to develop and implement integrated water resources plans, including conservation and rehabilitation of watersheds, protection of ground water, fostering public awareness and water quality monitoring.

3. Assist training and public awareness campaigns to build up an endogenous capacity relating to water management and conservation and appropriate rainwater catchment systems.

4. Support the establishment of methodologies aimed at assessing the adverse impact of climate change on freshwater resources and develop appropriate response and mitigation measures.

VI. LAND RESOURCES

A. National action, policies and measures

1. Develop and improve national databases for land-use planning and management, including estimates of carrying capacity, economic and environmental value of land resources, along with appropriate decision-making tools such as Land/Geographic Information Systems.

2. Prepare and/or review land-use plans in conjunction with agricultural, forestry, mining, tourism, traditional land-use practices and other land use policies, with a view to formulating comprehensive land-use plans and zoning, so as to protect land resources, ensure sustainable and productive land use and guard against land degradation, pollution and exceeding island carrying capacity.

3. Encourage appropriate forms of land tenure and a greater appreciation of the integrated nature of land development in order to facilitate sustainable land use.

4. Formulate and enforce laws, regulations and economic pricing and incentives to encourage the sustainable and integrated use, management and conservation of land and its natural resources.

5. Support appropriate afforestation and reforestation programmes, with appropriate emphasis on natural regeneration and participation of land owners, to ensure watershed and coastal protection and reduce land degradation.

6. Improve the availability, affordability and environmental quality of shelter in human settlements, in accordance with chapter 7 of Agenda 21.

7. Increase attention to national physical planning in both urban and rural environments, with a focus on training to strengthen physical planning offices, including the use of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and other decision-making tools.

B. Regional action

1. Provision of appropriate training and other capacity-building opportunities for small island developing States, including systems for continuous surveillance of the rate and extent of land-use changes and monitoring of adverse environmental effects, to facilitate the implementation of national actions.

2. Collection, synthesis and sharing of relevant information, knowledge and experience among small island developing States on sustainable land-use practices and policies in a structured and systematic way, including issues pertaining to environmental, agricultural, forestry, mining and other land-based sectors, market intelligence information, and assessment of potential interested overseas investors.

C. International action

1. Support the improved availability of shelter and the economic and environmental quality of human settlements for small island developing States in accordance with chapter 7 of Agenda 21.

2. Facilitate more effective international and interregional cooperation, coordination and collaboration in the fields of agriculture, forestry and other land use, through international and interregional networks and training programmes.

VII. ENERGY RESOURCES

A. National action, policies and measures

1. Implement appropriate public education and awareness programmes, including consumer incentives to promote energy conservation.

2. Promote the efficient use of energy and the development of environmentally sound energy resources and energy efficient technologies, paying special attention to the increasing economic possibilities of renewable energy resources.

3. Establish and/or strengthen, where appropriate, research capabilities in the development and promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including wind, solar, geothermal, hydroelectric, wave and biomass.

B. Regional action

1. Establish or strengthen research and policy capabilities in the development of new and renewable sources of energy, including wind, solar, geothermal, hydroelectric, wave and biomass.

2. Assist, where appropriate, in the formulation of energy policies, standards and guidelines for the energy sector applicable to small island developing States, and enhance national capacity to effectively plan, manage and monitor their energy sectors.

3. Gather and disseminate information, and promote regional cooperation and technical exchanges between small island developing States on energy-sector issues.

C. International action

1. Support the development and utilization of renewable energy technologies and improve the efficiency of existing technologies and end-use equipment based on conventional energy sources.

2. Formulate and ratify international agreements on energy-sector issues in relation to sustainable development in such issues as carbon

emissions and the transportation of petroleum - for example, the use of double-hulled tankers.

3. Develop and agree to effective mechanisms for the transfer of energy technology and establish databases to disseminate information on experience in the use of new and renewable sources of energy as well as on the efficient use of non-renewable energy sources.

4. Ensure that international institutions and agencies incorporate environmental efficiency and conservation principles into energy-sector-related training and technical assistance and provide concessionary financing facilities for energy-sector reforms.

VIII. TOURISM RESOURCES

A. National action, policies and measures

1. Ensure that tourism development and environmental management are mutually supportive.

2. Adopt integrated planning and policies to ensure sustainable tourism development, with particular attention to land-use planning, requiring environmental impact assessments for all tourism projects, continuous monitoring of the environmental impact of all tourism activities, the development of guidelines and standards for design and construction to take into account energy consumption, the disposal of wastes and land degradation, the proper management and protection of eco-tourism attractions and the carrying capacity of areas for tourism.

3. Identify and develop facilities to meet specific "niche" markets, particularly in eco-tourism, nature and cultural tourism, providing increased support for cultural activities to protect the cultural integrity of small island developing States.

B. Regional action

1. Ensure that tourism and the environment are mutually supportive in cooperation schemes at the regional level, including harmonization of standards and regulations.

2. Encourage the assessment and development of potential complementarities among small island developing States including the development of packaged options covering several islands and encouraging joint marketing and training programmes.

3. Establish or strengthen regional mechanisms for the exchange of information in the development of a safe and sustainable tourism sector, using, as appropriate, the capacities of regional tourism organizations.

C. International action

1. Promote recognition of the value of tourism in small island developing States to the international community as well as the fragility of the resources on which tourism in small island developing States depends and of the need therefore for international support to encourage its sustainable development.

2. Facilitate efforts at the national and regional levels to assess the overall impact of the economic, social and ecological aspects of tourism, to plan sustainable tourism and to develop eco- and cultural tourism.

IX. BIO-DIVERSITY RESOURCES

A. National action, policies and measures

1. Formulate and implement integrated strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial and marine bio-diversity, including identification of sites of high biological significance for conservation of biological diversity and/or for eco-tourism and other sustainable development opportunities, such as sustainable agriculture, training and research.

2. Ratify and implement the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and other relevant international and regional conventions.

3. Promote community support for the conservation of biological diversity and designation of protected areas through concentration on educational strategies that increase awareness of the significance of biodiversity conservation and particularly the fundamental importance of a diverse biological resource base to resource-owning communities.

4. Generate and maintain buffer stocks of biogenetic resources for re-introduction into the environment, especially in the case of post-disaster restoration and rehabilitation.

5. Develop or continue studies and research on biological resources, their management and their intrinsic socio-economic and cultural value, including biotechnology.

B. Regional action

1. Encourage countries to concentrate on known, existing sites of biological significance and to build up community support for the protection of these areas.

2. Promote regional studies of the socio-economic and cultural value of biological resources, including genetic engineering, intellectual property rights, and access to biotechnology, with the participation

of existing or strengthened scientific institutions, relevant international agencies and non-governmental organizations.

3. Promote the establishment of regional gene-bank centres for research, seeking the development and introduction of more resistant and productive varieties of species, and provide the appropriate legal and technical procedures for the use of these biological resources.

4. Coordinate information exchange, training and technical assistance in support of national efforts to establish and manage conservation areas and for species conservation, including the identification and use of traditional knowledge and techniques for resource management which assist the conservation of biological resources and diversity.

5. Promote and/or strengthen already existing regional scientific institutions which can operate as reference centres for problems related to the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity.

C. International action

1. Provide improved access to financial and technical resources for the conservation of biological diversity, including funds for basic institutional and logistic support for the conservation and management of biological diversity.

2. Improve access to environmentally sound biotechnology, including know-how and delivery mechanisms.

3. Ensure that the activities of relevant international organizations, agencies and programmes of the United Nations as well as of relevant non-governmental organizations, are closely coordinated with and supportive of identified regional small island developing States centres or ongoing programmes in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wildlife, Fauna and Flora conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and biotechnology.

4. Make greater use of import restrictions under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) on products from endangered species of small island developing States.

X. NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY

A. National action, policies and measures

1. Strengthen institutional arrangements and administrative capacity, including cross-sectoral/interministerial committees and task forces, to integrate environment and economic policy in national planning and across sectors and ensure capacity to implement Agenda 21 and the decisions of the Global Conference.

2. Develop implementation strategies and schedules, including financing, for both regional and national activities.

3. Establish or strengthen environmental agencies with adequate financial and staff resources.

4. Increase awareness and involvement of non-governmental organizations, local communities and other major groups in national planning and implementation of sustainable development programmes.

5. Improve public education to familiarize local, provincial/State and national bodies with environmental laws already in existence, to facilitate discussion of the value of environmental legislation and standards to local communities and to open wider discussion on more culturally appropriate penalties for contravention of laws and regulations.

6. Develop appropriate national, provincial/State and local environmental regulations which reflect the needs and incorporate the principles of sustainability, create appropriate environmental standards and procedures, and ensure their integration into national planning instruments and development projects at an early state in the design process, including specific legislation for appropriate environmental impact assessment for both public and private-sector development.

7. Give sustainable development task forces or their equivalent official authority and validity to permit their continued meeting as interdisciplinary and communally representative advisory bodies.

8. Provide adequate resources for the enforcement of environmental regulations.

9. Enact domestic legislation required for the implementation of the wide range of international environmental conventions and agreements directly relevant to small island developing States.

10. Establish national information nodes on the sustainable development of small island developing States, to encourage, at the international level, the development of a small islands' sustainable development information network to facilitate the exchange of experience among small island developing States.

B. Regional action

1. Assist, where appropriate, with the implementation of national environmental strategies.

2. Provide appropriate research, training and information dissemination to facilitate the mainstreaming of environment in development planning and decision-making and coordination between sectors.

C. International action

1. Improve access to financial and technical assistance to strengthen national institutions and administrative and operational capacity.

2. Support the development of a small islands' sustainable development information network to facilitate the exchange of experience among small island developing States.

XI. REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

A. National action, policies and measures

1. Support for regional organizations through membership and budgetary contributions.

2. Encourage improved coordination and collaboration among regional bodies and between the international community and regional programmes.

B. Regional action

1. Improve coordination among regional bodies for the sustainable development of small island developing States as outlined in Agenda 21.

2. Formulate regional programmes and strategies jointly between regional bodies and national authorities consistent with Agenda 21.

3. Develop a small island developing States technical assistance programme to support sustainable development in small island developing States worldwide.

4. Establish and, where appropriate, support regional sustainable development centres to facilitate the sustainable development of small island developing States in the areas of research, training, the development of endogenous technology, transfer of technology and the provision of legal and technical advice, taking into account the work of existing relevant institutions, including universities.

5. Draft model environmental provisions as a guide for countries, leaving to each small island developing States the incorporation of country-specific provisions to reflect the variety and diversity of national and customary laws and procedures.

6. Prepare environmental law training manuals for both lawyers and others working in the environmental field.

7. Conduct regional and in-country workshops on environmental law subjects, including, environmental conventions and treaties,

Environmental Impact Assessment, heritage, pollution, civil enforcement, prosecution and environmental mediation.

8. Assess relevant international environmental instruments and conventions in order to encourage small island developing States to accede to and implement them.

C. International action

1. Support environmental law offices within regional and sub-regional organizations to implement regional approaches, including the development of relevant expertise.

2. Improve access to financial and technical resources for the development and/or strengthening of the regional bodies in order to respond to the sustainable development needs of small island developing States.

3. Improve coordination with relevant region/subregional bodies to implement Agenda 21 and the decisions of the Global Conference.

4. Strengthen the regional bodies in order to improve their capacity to respond to the sustainable development needs of small island developing States.

XII. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

A. National action, policies and measures

1. Continue efforts to strengthen transport services and facilities at both the national and local levels, with particular attention to environmental protection, safety and to innovative low-cost transport solutions.

2. Upgrade domestic communications facilities, including radio and telephone coverage to remote rural communities, and to continue the efforts to improve international telecommunications links.

3. Address quarantine problems and requirements stemming from changing transport situations and longer-term climatic changes.

B. Regional action

1. Foster increased cooperation in civil aviation, shipping and telecommunications, including possibilities for consolidation of national airline services.

2. Develop effective quarantine services, through upgrading existing plant protection and related programmes.

3. Develop and apply new communications technology to distance education services to promote greater public awareness of sustainable development issues.

C. International action

1. Develop innovative energy efficient transport solutions to move people and cargo to and from island ports without the need to establish high cost infrastructure.

2. Cooperate with national and regional bodies in designing and enforcing effective quarantine systems.

3. Improve access to financial and technical resources in support of regional organizations which are coordinating and advising small island developing States in the fields of transport and communication.

XIII. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

A. National action, policies and measures

1. Ensure that science and technology policy is closely linked to national environmental strategies and sustainable development plans and response to local and sectoral sustainable development needs, emphasizing self-sufficiency and the minimization of import dependency.

2. Give greater emphasis to research and training for science and economic development generally as well as for environmental and technology assessment; refine analytical tools for natural resource accounting; and encourage the development and use of information and communications technology to overcome size and isolation problems.

3. Promote research and development in areas where endogenous technologies and traditional practices have great relevance, including agriculture, agricultural processing, waste-recycling, ethnobiology and biotechnology, construction and renewable energy, ensuring that mechanisms are in place for the appropriate protection of intellectual property rights in accordance with relevant international conventions.

4. Encourage the use of endogenous environmentally friendly technologies through regulations, standards and economic incentives.

5. Develop or ensure access to databases on environmentally sound technologies of local relevance and collect consistent time series data for monitoring performance of sustainable development.

B. Regional action

1. Develop or strengthen efforts to assist small island developing States assess technology, develop databases on environmentally sound technologies, conduct relevant research and development and training,

develop appropriate information systems to share experience within and between small island developing States, through relevant regional organizations and institutions.

2. Encourage appropriate regional standards and the standardization of analytical methods as well as scientific inter-calibration exercises in order to facilitate the exchange of data.

3. Develop and strengthen Regional Ocean Sciences Networks with particular reference to data collection and dissemination of information relevant to small island developing states.

C. International action

1. Facilitate access to and the development of environmentally sound technologies relevant to small island developing States, including coastal zone management, marine and ocean sciences, using inter alia, joint ventures and financial mechanisms.

2. Strengthen coordination and networking of the various national centres, regional organizations and institutions and international organizations working in areas of science and technology to facilitate information flow, database creation and access, and greater collaboration and technical cooperation in programmes.

3. Encourage development within the international community, including the United Nations system, of appropriate programmes in support of regional and national efforts to build the science and technology capacities of small island developing States.

XIV. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

A. National action, policies and measures

1. Infuse sustainable development ideas into education curricula at all levels and promote participation by all groups, emphasizing the link between environment and social and economic issues and continue to orient education systems to greater emphasis on science, mathematics, and technical training.

2. Mainstream population issues into decision-making and planning mechanisms of government, including the development of comprehensive population policies consistent with sustainable development objectives.

3. Improve urban/rural settlements by giving priority to the improvement of basic services such as potable water, sewage disposal, shelter, family planning, health and the elimination of poverty, ensuring that development projects have explicit environment and health objectives, ensuring adequate resources for public health and health prevention activities, and considering urban development options including decentralization.

4. Encourage the use of distance training to meet expanding educational demand and the large demand for knowledge and training on the environment.

5. Encourage the use of traditional knowledge and skills in environment, resource management and health, and the use of community groups to assist in promoting environmental awareness.

B. Regional action

1. Support national efforts to develop appropriate curricula for sustainable development at all levels, including the introduction, development and/or access to interdisciplinary training in environmental sciences at a tertiary level, and improve coordination of training activities on sustainable development and environmental issues that are being conducted throughout small island developing States by different organizations, including non-governmental organizations.

2. Assess the impacts of urbanization on the physical and human environments and provide health evaluation and impact assessment capability for small island developing States.

C. International action

1. Support efforts to develop curricula for sustainable development, in particular, tertiary level courses on environmental management and sustainable development encouraging in these multidisciplinary approaches.

2. Provide appropriate resources to meet the particular population concerns of small island developing States, inter alia support small island developing States in the preparatory process for the International Conference on Population and Development.

3. Support basic regional and national formal and informal health training institutions and research on technology and health problems of small island developing States, paying more attention to malaria, nutrition, drugs, AIDS, maternal and infant health care and support national and regional efforts to improve urban/rural settlements.

XV. IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REVIEW